

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A device for adapting the coating width of a coating system comprising a distribution chamber having a coating slot and at least one piston with a sealing sheet, the at least one piston being arranged at one end of the distribution chamber so as to be movable along the coating slot and the sealing sheet essentially sealing off the coating slot, further comprising means for applying a confining fluid to the side of the piston facing away from the coating fluid so as to simulate a continuous material web.

2. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~further comprising means for applying a confining fluid to the side of the piston facing away from the coating fluid so as to simulate a continuous material web~~ wherein the piston is provided with two sealing elements which are positioned approximately at the beginning and the end of the sealing sheet, and the confining fluid is supplied between the sealing elements.

3. (currently amended) A device for adapting the coating width of a coating system, comprising at least one limiting means limiting a coating slot, wherein the limiting means is movable and is adapted such that, a confining fluid ~~is being~~ applicable through to it.

4. (original) The device according to claim 3, wherein the at least one limiting means is a piston.

5. (original) The device according to claim 4, wherein the piston is provided with a sealing sheet extending into the coating slot.

6. (previously presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the piston is arranged in a distribution chamber for the coating fluid.

7. (previously presented) The device according to claim 6, wherein the piston is sealed off against the distribution chamber by at least one sealing element.

8. (previously presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein the piston is provided with two sealing elements which are positioned approximately at the beginning and the end of the sealing sheet.

9. (original) The device according to claim 8, wherein the confining fluid is supplied between the sealing elements.

10. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the coating slot has a width of about 100 μm to. about 250 μm .

11. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein the portion of confining fluid is about 0.5 % to about 2 % of the coating fluid used.

12. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein the confining fluid is supplied to the piston heads via the piston rods.

13. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein the pressure of the confining fluid and/or the coating fluid is adjustable via the height of an adjustable dam.

14. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein the confining fluid and/or the coating fluid is/are supplied via a dosage pump or a dropping system.

15. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein the confining fluid comprises an aqueous solution.

16. (withdrawn) A method for adapting the coating width of a coating system by moving means for limiting the coating slot along the coating slot.

17. (withdrawn) A method for adapting the coating width of a coating system by applying a confining fluid in the edge area of the means to be coated.

18. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein a continuous material web is simulated in the edge area of the means to be coated by means of a/the confining fluid.

19. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein the coating is effected by means of a coating fluid applied through the coating slot which is limited laterally by sealing sheets which thus define the coating width, a confining fluid that laterally adjoins the coating fluid being passed essentially along the sealing sheets through the coating slot.

20. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 19, wherein the coating width is adjusted by moving the limiting means and/or sealing sheets relative to each other.